



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Mr. Ray H. Jyo, P.E.
Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management
Army Corps of Engineers
Building 230
Ft. Shafter, HI 96858

OCT 17 2001

Dear Mr. Jyo,

This letter is in response to your October 1, 2001 letter, requesting EPA's approval of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) proposed remedy for the PCB contaminated soil in Tanapag Village, Saipan. ACE is proposing to use an indirect thermal desorption process to treat approximately 20,000 tons of PCB contaminated soil and to dispose of the PCB residuals via shipment back to the US mainland for disposal in a TSCA certified landfill.

We have reviewed ACE's request together with its responses to comments on the proposed remedy from EPA, CNMI and the public. Through this letter, EPA is providing conditional approval of ACE's proposed remedy. However, pursuant to the EPA RCRA 7003 Order, ACE must submit for EPA approval a Work Plan for addressing contamination at the Site. To satisfy the requirements of TSCA, the Work Plan must be approved by the Regional Administrator. Also, pursuant to the EPA RCRA Order, ACE must conduct a testing and demonstration phase in Saipan to confirm that the thermal desorption unit meets all relevant regulatory requirements, including limitation on stack emissions of PCBs. Once the unit passes performance testing, approval for operation in accordance with performance specifications will be granted by the EPA OSC.

EPA requests that you provide a revised Work Plan to EPA, CNMI, and the public within fourteen (14) days of this correspondence and allow adequate time for review and comment. We encourage you to continue to involve the community in the cleanup of the Site. We are looking forward to your participation in a joint agency meeting to discuss the remedy selection and its implementation with the community. Please inform us of your communication strategy for informing the public as the work progresses at the Site.

Once again, I would like to recognize the considerable progress made on the project and I look forward to the successful implementation of the remedy. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the EPA OSC, Michelle Rogow at (415) 744-2335.

Sincerely,


Keith Takata
Director, Superfund Division